



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Biodiversity Day in Kentucky to be celebrated in Frankfort *Celebration features winners of the Jim Claypool Art and Writing Competition*

Frankfort, Ky. (Feb. 20, 2014) – The public is invited to learn more about Kentucky's biologically diverse environment at the Capitol Annex Feb. 27, which has been proclaimed by Gov. Steve Beshear as Biodiversity Day in Kentucky.

This day is set aside to honor the rich variety of living things that benefit our biologically diverse Commonwealth.

"Our abundance of beauty invites tourism, outdoor recreation and artistic expression," said Gov. Beshear in the proclamation. "Our variety of life attracts important scientific research, inspires students of higher institutions and promotes the development of new products."

To commemorate the fourth annual celebration of Biodiversity Day in Kentucky, an educational event will be held at the Capitol Annex.

As part of the celebration, young Kentuckians who have excelled in the Jim Claypool Art and Writing competition will be honored. The theme of this year's competition is Mission: H2O. Displays at the event will focus on Kentucky's rich natural heritage and the importance of biological diversity, especially as it relates to water resources.

"Every organism depends not only on water to exist and survive, but also on the systems created by water, air, soil and other species," said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters. "This event provides an opportunity to learn about how humans fit into this system and the things we can do to protect the biological diversity that gives Kentuckians the quality of life, productivity and natural experience that are enjoyed daily by residents and visitors alike."

Event sponsors include the Energy and Environment Cabinet, the Kentucky Conservation Committee, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

For more information, call Johnna McHugh at 502-564-2320.

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